Spectral analysis of a flat plasma sheet model

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(Dated: February 7, 2008)

Abstract

The spectral analysis of the electromagnetic field on the background of a infinitely thin flat plasma layer is carried out. This model is loosely imitating a single base plane from graphite and it is of interest for theoretical studies of fullerenes. By making use of the Hertz potentials the solutions to Maxwell equations with the appropriate matching conditions at the plasma layer are derived and on this basis the spectrum of electromagnetic oscillations is determined. The model is naturally split into the TE-sector and TM-sector. Both the sectors have positive continuous spectra, but the TM-modes have in addition a bound state, namely, the surface plasmon. This analysis relies on the consideration of the scattering problem in the TE- and TM-sectors. The spectral zeta function and integrated heat kernel are constructed for different branches of the spectrum in an explicit form. As a preliminary, the rigorous procedure of integration over the continuous spectra is formulated by introducing the spectral density in terms of the scattering phase shifts. The asymptotic expansion of the integrated heat kernel at small values of the evolution parameter is derived. By making use of the technique of integral equations, developed earlier by the same authors, the local heat kernel (Green's function or fundamental solution) is constructed also. As a by-product, a new method is demonstrated for deriving the fundamental solution to the heat conduction equation (or to the Schrödinger equation) on an infinite line with the δ-like source. In particular, for the heat conduction equation on an infinite line with the δ-source a nontrivial counterpart is found, namely, a spectral problem with point interaction, that possesses the same integrated heat kernel while the local heat kernels (fundamental solutions) in these spectral problems are different.

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Typeset by REVTEX

1

I. INTRODUCTION

Now the employment of the fullerenes in practical activity becomes of rising importance (in superconducting technique, in mechanical engineering for reducing the friction, in medicine for drug production and so on). Fullerenes [1, 2] are the third crystal modification of carbon. First they were produced in 1980-ties (Nobel price in Chemistry in 1996, R. F. Curl, H. W. Kroto, and R. E. Smalley). The elementary blocks of the fullerenes are the giant carbon molecules (C_{60}, C_{70}, C_{84}, and greater) having the form of empty balls, ellipsoids, tubes and so on. There appears a special branch of technology, nanotechnology [3], which is based on using the fullerenes and especially, nanotubes. In theoretical studies of the fullerenes it is important to estimate the ground state energy (the Casimir energy) of such molecules. The carbon shells, forming the structure of fullerenes, can be considered as infinitely thin layers, and their collective electrons can be treated as two-dimensional plasma layer by making use of the hydrodynamic picture for its description. As a result, the problem reduces to the solution of the Maxwell equations with charges and currents distributed along the surfaces modeling the carbon sheets. The method of boundary (matching) conditions applies here, i.e., the Maxwell equations are considered only outside the plasma layers and when approaching these sheets the electric and magnetic fields should meet appropriate matching conditions. From the mathematical stand point the pertinent spectral problem proves to be well posed.

For constructing the quantum version of this model and, first of all, for a rigorous treatment of the divergencies encountered here the spectral analysis of the underlying field theory should be accomplished, i.e., the spectrum of the dynamical system in question should be determined, the mathematically consistent integration procedure over this spectrum should be defined and on this basis the spectral zeta function and heat kernels (integrated and local ones) should be calculated as well as their asymptotic expansions under small values of the evolution parameter should be found.

The present work is exactly devoted to the spectral analysis of an infinitely thin plasma sheet model with the simplest geometry, namely, the plasma layer has the form of a plane. The spectrum of the model proves to be very reach, namely, it contains both continuous branches and bound states (surface plasmon), and we managed to construct all the pertinent spectral functions possessing interesting properties.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In Sec. II the physical formulation of the model under study is briefly given. In Sec. III the solutions to the Maxwell equations obeying the pertinent matching conditions at the plasma layer are constructed. The use of the Hertz vectors for this aim proves to be very effective. Proceeding from this the spectrum of electromagnetic oscillations in the model is found. As usual in electrodynamical problems the model is naturally separated into the TE-sector and TM-sector. Both the sectors have positive continuous spectra, but the TM-modes have in addition a bound state, namely, the surface plasmon. This analysis relies on the consideration of the scattering problem in the TE- and TM-sectors. In Sec. IV the spectral zeta function and integrated heat kernel are constructed for different branches of the spectrum in an explicit form. As a preliminary, the rigorous procedure of integration over the continuous spectra is formulated by introducing the spectral density (the function of the spectral shift) in terms of the scattering phase shifts. Sec. V is devoted to the construction of the local heat kernel (Green's function or fundamental solution) in the model at hand. Here the technique of integral equations governing the heat kernel to be found is used. As a by-product, a new method is demonstrated here for

2

deriving the fundamental solution to the heat conduction equation (or to the Schrödinger equation) on an infinite line with the δ-like source. In particular, for the heat conduction equation on an infinite line with the δ-source a nontrivial counterpart is found, namely, a spectral problem with point interaction, that possesses the same integrated heat kernel. However the local heat kernels in these spectral problems are different. In the Conclusion (Sec. VI) the obtained results are summarized briefly.

II.   FORMULATION OF THE MODEL

In recent papers [4, 5] Barton has proposed and investigated the model of infinitesimally thin two-dimensional plasma layer that is loosely inspired by considering a single base plane from graphite or the giant carbon molecule C_{60}. Effectively the model is described by the Maxwell equations with charges and currents distributed along the surface Σ :

$$\boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \quad \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \mathbf{E} - i\omega\mathbf{B}/c = 0\,, \tag{2.1}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{E} = 4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_\Sigma)\,\sigma, \quad \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B} + i\omega\mathbf{E}/c = 4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_\Sigma)\,\mathbf{J}/c\,. \tag{2.2}$$

It is assumed that the time variation of all the dynamical variables is described by a common factor $e^{-i\omega t}$.

The properties of the plasma layer (for example, plasma oscillations and screening) differ considerably from those in bulk media [6]. In hydrodynamic approach the plasma is considered as the electron fluid embedded in a rigid uniform positive background. Electrical neutrality requires that the equilibrium electron charge density $-en_0$ precisely cancels that of the background. In a dynamical situation, the electron density is altered to $n(\mathbf{x}, t)$, and the equation of continuity requires

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot (n\,\dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}) = 0\,, \tag{2.3}$$

where $\dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is the electron velocity at the point $\mathbf{x}$. Usually one considers the *linear* response of an initially stationary system to an applied perturbation. In this case, the induced charge density

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}, t) \equiv -e\,(n(\mathbf{x}, t) - n_0)\,, \tag{2.4}$$

the velocity $\dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$, and the fields $\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ are of first order. In this approximation the continuity equation (2.3) gives for the plasma layer

$$\dot{\sigma} - en_0\boldsymbol{\nabla}_\| \cdot \dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma = en_0\boldsymbol{\nabla}_\| \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}\,. \tag{2.5}$$

The superscripts $\|$ and $\perp$ indicate here and below the vector components respectively parallel and normal to the surface Σ.

For the induced charge current $\mathbf{J}$ we have

$$\mathbf{J} = -en_0\dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = i\,e\,\omega\,n_0\boldsymbol{\xi}\,. \tag{2.6}$$

The Newton second law applied to an individual electron gives

$$m\,\ddot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(\mathbf{x}, t) = -e\,\mathbf{E}_\|(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Sigma, \quad \text{or} \quad \boldsymbol{\xi} = \frac{e}{m\omega^2}\,\mathbf{E}_\|\,. \tag{2.7}$$

3

Finally, the induced-on-the-surface charges and electric currents are determined by the parallel components of electric filed

$$\sigma = \frac{e^2 n_0}{m\omega^2} \, \mathbf{\nabla}_\| \cdot \mathbf{E}_\|, \quad \mathbf{J} = i \, \frac{e^2 n_0}{m\omega} \, \mathbf{E}_\| \, . \tag{2.8}$$

As known [7], electromagnetic field, generated by charges and currents with singular densities is described mathematically in the following way: outside the singularities the Maxwell equations (2.1), (2.2) without sources should be satisfied

$$\mathbf{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \qquad \mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{E} - i\omega\mathbf{B}/c = 0 \, , \tag{2.9}$$

$$\mathbf{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0, \qquad \mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B} + i\omega\mathbf{E}/c = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \notin \Sigma \, , \tag{2.10}$$

and when approaching at singularities the limiting values of the fields should meet the matching conditions determined by the singular sources. In the regions of singularities the Maxwell equations are not considered. The singular charges and currents in right-hand sides of the Maxwell equations (2.2) lead to the following matching conditions

$$[\mathbf{E}_\|] = 0, \quad [\mathbf{E}_\perp] \ = \ 2q(c/\omega)^2 \mathbf{\nabla}_\| \cdot \mathbf{E}_\| \, , \tag{2.11}$$

$$[\mathbf{B}_\perp] = 0, \quad [\mathbf{B}_\|] \ = \ -2iq(c/\omega) \, \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E}_\| \, . \tag{2.12}$$

Here q is a characteristic wave number $q = 2\pi n e^2/mc^2$, the square brackets $[\mathbf{F}]$ denote the discontinuity of the field $\mathbf{F}$ when crossing the surface Σ, and $\mathbf{n}$ is a unit normal to this surface usually used in formulation of matching conditions [7].

The physical origin of the model leads to a Debye-type cutoff K on the surface-parallel wavenumbers of waves that the fluid can support. However if one digresses from this cutoff then the Maxwell equations (2.9) and (2.10) with matching conditions (2.11) and (2.12) can be regarded as a local quantum field model that is interesting by himself. First of all the question arises here concerning the analysis of divergences. As known [8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13], to this end one has to calculate the heat kernel coefficients for the differential operator garnering the dynamics in this model (see Eqs. (2.9) – (2.12)).

III. SOLUTION TO THE MAXWELL EQUATIONS FOR A FLAT PLASMA SHEET

When constructing the normal modes in this problem it is convenient to use the Hertz potentials [7, 14, 15]. In view of high symmetry of the flat plasma layer the electric ($\mathbf{E}$) and magnetic ($\mathbf{B}$) fields are expressed in terms of electric ($\mathbf{\Pi}'$) and magnetic ($\mathbf{\Pi}''$) Hertz vectors possessing only one nonzero component

$$\mathbf{\Pi}' = \mathbf{e}_z e^{i\mathbf{ks}} \Phi(z), \quad \mathbf{\Pi}'' = \mathbf{e}_z e^{i\mathbf{ks}} \Psi(z) \, . \tag{3.1}$$

Here the plasma layer is taken as the (x, y) coordinate plane, the axes z is normal to this plane, $\mathbf{k}$ is a two-component wave vector parallel to the plasma sheet and $\mathbf{s} = (x, y)$; $\mathbf{e}_x$, $\mathbf{e}_y$, and $\mathbf{e}_z$ are unit base vectors in this coordinate system. The common time-dependent factor $e^{-i\omega t}$ is dropped.

For given Hertz vectors $\boldsymbol{\Pi}'$ and $\boldsymbol{\Pi}''$ the electric and magnetic fields are constructed by the formulas

$$\mathbf{E} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{\Pi}', \qquad \mathbf{B} = -i\frac{\omega}{c}\boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{\Pi}' \quad \text{(TM - modes, } B_z = 0); \tag{3.2}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = i\frac{\omega}{c}\boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{\Pi}'', \qquad \mathbf{B} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{\Pi}'' \quad \text{(TE - modes, } E_z = 0). \tag{3.3}$$

Substituting here $\boldsymbol{\Pi}'$ and $\boldsymbol{\Pi}''$ by Eq. (3.1) one obtains for the TE-modes

$$\mathbf{E} = (-k_y\mathbf{e}_x + k_x\mathbf{e}_y)\frac{\omega}{c}e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Psi(z), \tag{3.4}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = i(k_x\mathbf{e}_x + k_y\mathbf{e}_y)e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Psi'(z) + \mathbf{e}_z k^2 e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Psi(z) \tag{3.5}$$

and for the TM-modes

$$\mathbf{E} = i(k_x\mathbf{e}_x + k_y\mathbf{e}_y)e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Phi'(z) + \mathbf{e}_z k^2 e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Phi(z) \tag{3.6}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = (k_y\mathbf{e}_x - k_x\mathbf{e}_y)\frac{\omega}{c}e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Phi(z), \tag{3.7}$$

The fields (3.4) – (3.7) will obey the Maxwell equations (2.9) and(2.10) outside the plasma layer ($z = 0$) when the functions $e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Phi(z)$ and $e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Psi(z)$ are the eigenfunctions of the operator $(-\Delta)$ with the eigenvalues ω^2/c^2 (Δ is the three-dimensional Laplace operator):

$$-\Delta e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Phi(z) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Phi(z), \tag{3.8}$$

$$-\Delta e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Psi(z) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}e^{i\mathbf{ks}}\Psi(z). \tag{3.9}$$

We deduce from here

$$-\Phi''(z) = \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - k^2\right)\Phi(z), \tag{3.10}$$

$$-\Psi''(z) = \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - k^2\right)\Psi(z), \tag{3.11}$$

$$-\infty < z < \infty, \qquad z \neq 0, \quad 0 \leq k^2 < \infty.$$

The substitution of the fields (3.4) – (3.7) into the matching conditions (2.11) and (2.12) gives the analogous conditions at the point $z = 0$ for the functions $\Phi(z)$ and $\Psi(z)$:

$$[\Phi(0)] = -2q\left(\frac{c}{\omega}\right)^2\Phi'(0), \quad [\Phi'(0)] = 0, \tag{3.12}$$

$$[\Psi(0)] = 0, \quad [\Psi'(0)] = 2q\Psi(0), \tag{3.13}$$

where the notation is introduced

$$[F(z)] = F(z + 0) - F(z - 0). \tag{3.14}$$

The matching conditions (3.12) are very specific, they involve the eigenvalues of the whole initial spectral problem (3.8). It implies, specifically, that the dynamics of TM-modes along the z axes 'feels' the parallel dimensions (x, y). Thus for the TM-modes the initial spectral

problem does not factorizes completely into two independent boundary value problems along the z axis and in parallel directions.

In order to complete the formulation of the boundary spectral problems (3.10) – (3.13) we have to specify the behaviour of the functions $\Phi(z)$ and $\Psi(z)$ when $|z| \to \infty$. Proceeding from the physical content of the problem in question, we shall consider such functions $\Phi(z)$ and $\Psi(z)$ which either oscillate ($p^2 \equiv \omega^2/c^2 - k^2 > 0$) or go down ($\kappa^2 \equiv k^2 - \omega^2/c^2 > 0$) when $|z| \to \infty$. In the first case we are dealing with the scattering states and in the second one the solutions to the Maxwell equations describe the surface plasmon.[1]

The spectral problem for the TE-modes (3.11) and (3.13) with the regarding boundary conditions is a selfadjoint spectral problem. Substituting the TE-fields (3.4) and (3.5) into the initial Maxwell equations with δ-sources (2.2) we arrive at the equation for $\Psi(z)$ with the δ-potential (instead of Eq. (3.11))

$$-\Psi''(z) + 2q\,\delta(z)\Psi(z) = p^2\,\Psi(z), \quad \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} = k^2 + p^2. \tag{3.15}$$

Integration of this equation in vicinity of the point $z = 0$ leads to the matching conditions (3.13) (see, for example, [21]). The potential in Eq. (3.15) is equal to $2q\,\delta(z)$. As it was mentioned above, the spectral problem for the TM-modes (3.10), (3.12) possesses a peculiarity, namely, the matching conditions (3.12) involve the eigenvalue ω/c. Obviously, the selfadjointness condition is not satisfied here.

The scattering problem for the functions $\Phi(z)$ and $\Psi(z)$ is formulated on a line: $-\infty < z < \infty$. As known [22, 23], the one-dimensional scattering problem has features in comparison with description of the scattering processes in three-dimensional space.

The scattering states for the TE-modes are described by the functions

$$\Psi(z) = C_1 e^{ipz} + C_2 e^{-ipz}, \quad z < 0, \tag{3.16}$$

$$\Psi(z) = C_3 e^{ipz}, \quad z > 0, \quad p > 0, \quad p^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - k^2. \tag{3.17}$$

The initial wave is coming from the left. Matching conditions (3.13) give the following relation between the constants C_i $(i = 1, 2, 3)$:

$$C_1 + C_2 = C_3, \tag{3.18}$$

$$ip\,(C_3 - C_1 + C_2) = 2q\,C_3. \tag{3.19}$$

From here we obtain for the reflection and transmission coefficients

$$\mathcal{R}^{\text{TE}} \equiv \frac{C_2}{C_1} = \frac{-iq}{p + iq} = i\sin\eta\,e^{i\eta}, \quad \mathcal{T}^{\text{TE}} = \frac{p}{p + iq} = \cos\eta\,e^{i\eta}, \tag{3.20}$$

where $\eta(p)$ is the phase shift for the scattering of the TE-modes. When initial waves is coming from the right we obtain the same reflection and transition coefficients. There is no

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[1] In electrodynamics of continuous media the surface plasmon is a special solution to the Maxwell equations which describes the electric and magnetic fields exponentially decreasing in the direction normal to the interface between two material media [16, 17, 18]. The plasmon solution exists only in the TM-sector. It is these configurations of electromagnetic field that contribute to the Casimir force between two semi-infinite material media [19, 20].

other conditions on p besides the positivity $p > 0$ (continuous spectrum). The scattering matrix, $S(p)$, is determined by the phase shift $\eta(p)$

$$\tan \eta(p) = -\frac{p}{q}, \quad p > 0 \tag{3.21}$$

in a standard way

$$S(p) = e^{2i\,\eta(p)}. \tag{3.22}$$

Between TE-modes there is no solutions which go down when $|z| \to \infty$. Indeed, such solutions, in accord with Eq. (3.11) would have the form

$$\Psi(z) = C_1 e^{\kappa z}, \quad z < 0,$$

$$\Psi(z) = C_2 e^{-\kappa z}, \quad z > 0, \quad \kappa = +\sqrt{k^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}} > 0. \tag{3.23}$$

Substitution of Eq. (3.23) into the matching conditions (3.13) gives

$$C_1 = C_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa = -q < 0. \tag{3.24}$$

Thus, there is no solutions of the form (3.23) with positive κ. This is in accord with the known fact [21] that the potential defined by the Dirac δ-function $\lambda\,\delta(z)$ leads to bound state only for $\lambda < 0$. In our case $\lambda = 2q > 0$ (see Eq. (3.15)).

Finally, the TE-modes have the spectrum

$$\frac{\omega^2(\mathbf{k}, p)}{c^2} = k^2 + p^2, \quad \mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad 0 \le p < \infty. \tag{3.25}$$

Here the contribution k^2 is given by the free waves propagating in directions parallel to the plasma layer, and the contribution p^2 corresponds to the one-dimensional scattering in normal direction with the phase shift (3.21).

Proceeding in the same way one obtains for the scattering of the TM-modes:

$$\mathcal{R}^{TM} = \frac{ip\,q}{p^2 + k^2 + ip\,q} = -i \sin \mu \, e^{i\mu}, \quad \mathcal{T}^{TM} = \frac{p^2 + k^2}{p^2 + k^2 + ip\,q} = \cos \mu \, e^{i\mu}, \tag{3.26}$$

where the phase shift $\mu(p, k)$ is defined by

$$\tan \mu(p, k) = -\frac{p\,q}{p^2 + k^2}, \quad p \ge 0. \tag{3.27}$$

The scattering matrix is defined here by the formula analogous to Eq. (3.22): $S(p, k) = e^{2i\mu(p,k)}$.

It turns out that between TM-modes there are solutions which not only oscillate when $|z| \to \infty$, but also go down in this limit. In this case the function $\Phi(z)$ is defined by the equation

$$\Phi''(z) - \left(k^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\right)\Phi(z) = 0, \tag{3.28}$$

where

$$k^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \equiv \kappa^2 > 0. \tag{3.29}$$

7

The solution we are interested in should have the form

$$\begin{aligned}
\Phi(z) &= C_1 e^{\kappa z}, \quad z < 0, \\
\Phi(z) &= C_2 e^{-\kappa z}, \quad z > 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{3.30}$$

where $\kappa = +\sqrt{k^2 - \omega^2/c^2} > 0$. The matching conditions (3.12) give rise to the equation for κ:

$$\kappa^2 + \kappa q - k^2 = 0, \tag{3.31}$$

the positive root of which is

$$\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{q^2}{4} + k^2} - \frac{q}{2}. \tag{3.32}$$

For the respective frequency squared we derive by making use of Eq. (3.29)

$$\frac{\omega_{\mathrm{sp}}^2}{c^2} = \frac{q}{2}\left(\sqrt{q^2 + 4k^2} - q\right) \geq 0. \tag{3.33}$$

Thus, the frequency of the surface plasmon is real, and the solution obtained oscillates in time instead of damping.

Finally, the spectrum of the TM-modes in the problem under study have two branches: i) the photon branch and ii) the surface plasmon branch. The photon spectrum of TM-modes is defined by

$$\frac{\omega_{\mathrm{ph}}^2(\mathbf{k}, p)}{c^2} = \mathbf{k}^2 + p^2, \quad \mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad 0 \leq p < \infty. \tag{3.34}$$

Here the contribution $\mathbf{k}^2$, as in Eq. (3.25) is given by the free waves propagating in directions parallel to the plasma layer and p^2 is the contribution of the one-dimensional scattering with the phase shift (3.27) in normal, to the plasma sheet, direction. The surface plasmon branch of the spectrum is described by

$$\frac{\omega_{\mathrm{sp}}^2(\mathbf{k})}{c^2} = \frac{q}{2}\left(\sqrt{q^2 + 4k^2} - q\right), \quad \mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{R}^2. \tag{3.35}$$

In the spectral problem (3.10), (3.12) with negative q the parameter κ defined by Eq. (3.32) is positive, however the respective frequency squared is negative

$$\frac{\omega_{q<0}^2}{c^2} = -\frac{1}{2}\left(q^2 + |q|\sqrt{q^2 + 4k^2}\right). \tag{3.36}$$

Hence, in this case we have a resonance state instead of the bound state (surface plasmon).

IV. SPECTRAL FUNCTIONS IN A FLAT PLASMA SHEET MODEL

In the previous section we have determined the spectrum in the model under consideration (see Eqs. (3.25), (3.34), and (3.35)) therefore we can proceed to construction of the spectral functions in this model, namely, the spectral zeta function

$$\zeta(s) = \mathrm{Tr}\, L^{-s} = \sum_n \lambda_n^{-s} \tag{4.1}$$

and (integrated) heat kernel

$$K(t) = \text{Tr}\,(e^{-t\,L}) = \sum_n e^{-\lambda_n t}\,, \tag{4.2}$$

where L is the differential operator in Eqs. (3.10) and (3.11) with matching conditions at $z = 0$ (3.12), (3.13) and conditions specified above for $|z| \to \infty$; λ_n are the eigenvalues given by Eqs. (3.25), (3.34), and (3.35). In Eq. (4.2) t is an auxiliary variable, $0 \le t < \infty$. In our case $L = -\Delta$ and t has the dimension [length]^2.

As a preliminary, it is worth stipulating the procedure of spectral summation entered Eqs. (4.1) and (4.2). Obviously the contribution to the spectral functions generated by free waves is given by a simple integration over the respective wave vector $\mathbf{k}$:

$$\int \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \cdots = \int_0^\infty \frac{k\,dk}{2\pi} \cdots \,. \tag{4.3}$$

The contribution of the scattering states we define by making use of the phase shift method, namely, the integration over dp will be carried out with the spectral density $\rho(p)$ (the function of spectral shift):

$$\rho(p) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{dp} \ln S(p) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d}{dp} \delta(p)\,, \tag{4.4}$$

where $\delta(p)$ is the phase shits for TE and TM modes given by Eqs. (3.21) and (3.27), respectively.

A. TE modes

Taking into account all this we get for the spectral zeta function in the TE-sector of the model

$$\zeta^{\text{TE}}(s) = \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \int_0^\infty dp\,(k^2 + p^2)^{-s} \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d}{dp} \eta(p) = \frac{q}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{dp}{p^2 + q^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k\,dk}{(k^2 + p^2)^s}\,. \tag{4.5}$$

The left-hand side of Eq. (4.5) is defined in the semi-plane Re $s > 1$ and this representation can be analytically extended all over the complex plane s save for separate points. In order to do this it is sufficient to express the integrals in Eq. (4.5) in terms of the gamma-function

$$\zeta^{\text{TE}}(s) = \frac{q^{2-2s}}{8\pi^2} \frac{\Gamma(3/2 - s)\,\Gamma(s - 1/2)\,\Gamma(s - 1)}{\Gamma(s)} = \frac{q^{2-2s}}{8\pi(1 - s)\cos(\pi s)}\,. \tag{4.6}$$

The integrated heat kernel for TE-modes is given by

$$K^{\text{TE}}(t) = K_0^{(d=2)}(t) \cdot K^{(d=1)}(t)\,, \tag{4.7}$$

where $K_0^{(d=2)}(t)$ is the free two-dimensional heat kernel responsible for free waves propagating in directions parallel to the plasma layer

$$K_0^{(d=2)}(t) = \int_0^\infty \frac{k\,dk}{2\pi} e^{-k^2 t} = \frac{1}{4\pi t}\,, \tag{4.8}$$

9

and

$$K^{(d=1)}(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dp\, e^{-p^2 t} \frac{d}{dp} \arctan\left(-\frac{q}{p}\right) = \frac{q}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-p^2 t}}{p^2 + q^2}\, dp$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} e^{tq^2} \left[1 - \text{erf}\left(q\sqrt{t}\right)\right] = \frac{1}{2} e^{tq^2} \text{erfc}\left(q\sqrt{t}\right), \tag{4.9}$$

where $\text{erf}\left(q\sqrt{t}\right)$ is the probability integral [24, 25].

In the plasma sheet model under consideration the parameter q is strictly positive. However the spectral problem (3.15) can be considered for the negative q also when it possesses a bound state [21]. The contribution of this state should be taken into account when calculating the respective heat kernel $K_{q<0}(t)$. But this heat kernel can be obtained by analytical continuation of Eq. (4.9)

$$K_{q<0}(t) = \frac{1}{2} e^{tq^2} \left[1 - \text{erf}\left(-|q|\sqrt{t}\right)\right] = \frac{1}{2} e^{tq^2} \left[1 + \text{erf}\left(|q|\sqrt{t}\right)\right]. \tag{4.10}$$

Comparison Eqs. (4.9) and (4.10) gives the following simple relation between the integrated heat kernel for δ potentials with positive and negative coupling constants

$$K_{q>0}(t) + K_{q<0}(t) = e^{tq^2}, \tag{4.11}$$

where $K_{q>0}(t)$ is given by Eq. (4.9).

The structure of divergences in quantum field theory is determined by the coefficients of the asymptotic expansion of the heat kernel when $t \to +0$

$$K(t) = (4\pi t)^{-d/2} \sum_{n=0,1,2,...} t^{n/2} B_{n/2} + \text{ES}, \tag{4.12}$$

where d is the dimension of the configuration space in the problem at hand, ES stands for the exponentially small corrections. The coefficients $B_{n/2}$ for TE-modes can be derived in two different ways: i) by making use of Eqs. (4.7) – (4.9) which determine the heat kernel explicitly and ii) by applying the known relation between the residua of the product $\zeta(s)\,\Gamma(s)$ and $B_{n/2}$:

$$\frac{B_{n/2}}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} = \lim_{s \to \frac{d-n}{2}} \left(s + \frac{n-d}{2}\right) \Gamma(s)\,\zeta(s), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots. \tag{4.13}$$

Both calculation schemes give the same values for the coefficients $B_{n/2}$ with $n \neq 0$:

$$B_{1/2} = \sqrt{\pi}, \quad B_1 = -2q, \quad B_{3/2} = \sqrt{\pi} q^2, \quad B_2 = -\frac{4}{3} q^3,$$
$$B_{5/2} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} q^4, \quad B_3 = -\frac{8}{15} q^5, \quad B_{7/2} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{6} q^6, \quad \dots. \tag{4.14}$$

Equations (4.7) – (4.9) give for the coefficient B_0

$$B_0 = 0, \tag{4.15}$$

while employment of the zeta function (4.5) and relation (4.13) leads to the nonzero value

$$B_0 = -\frac{1}{q}. \tag{4.16}$$

10

The different values of B_0 in Eqs. (4.15) and (4.16) are the consequence of the noncompact configuration space, $\mathbb{R}^3$, in the problem at hand. In the case of compact manifolds the coefficient B_0 is equal to the volume V of the manifold: $B_0 = V$. Definition of B_0 for a noncompact configuration space requires a special consideration [26, 27]. The correct value of B_0 in our case is formula (4.15) derived from the explicit heat kernel (4.7) – (4.9). The point is, the contribution of unbounded space $\mathbb{R}^3$ is subtracted from the spectral density (4.4). Hence this contribution is subtracted also from the multiplier $K^{(d-1)}(t)$ in Eq. (4.7) and, due to the factorization this formula, the contribution of $\mathbb{R}^3$ is automatically subtracted from the total kernel $K(t)$.

When calculating the zeta function $\zeta^{\text{TE}}(s)$ the spectral density (4.4) with subtracted $\mathbb{R}^3$-contribution has been used also. However in Eq. (4.5), unlike Eq. (4.7), there is no factorization of the contributions of waves propagating in directions parallel to the plasma plane and in normal to this plane direction. It is this point that lead to nonzero value of B_0 in Eq. (4.16).

B.   TM-modes

In the case of TM-modes there are two branches of spectrum: i) the photon branch (3.34) and ii) the surface plasmon branch (3.35).

By making use of Eqs. (3.27) and (4.4) we obtain for the photon zeta function in the TM-sector of the model

$$
\begin{aligned}
\zeta_{\text{ph}}^{\text{TM}}(s) &= \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \int_0^\infty dp \, (k^2 + p^2)^{-s} \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d}{dp} \mu(p, k) \\
&= \frac{q}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty k \, dk \int_0^\infty \frac{dp}{(k^2 + p^2)^s} \frac{p^2 - k^2}{(k^2 + p^2)^2 + q^2 p^2} \, .
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.17}
$$

The integration in (4.17) can be easily done by introducing first the polar coordinates

$$
k = r \sin \varphi, \quad p = r \cos \varphi, \quad dk \, dp = r \, dr \, d\varphi,
$$
$$
0 \le \varphi \le \pi/2, \quad 0 \le r \le \infty \, .
\tag{4.18}
$$

In terms of new variables formula (4.17) acquires the form

$$
\zeta_{\text{ph}}^{\text{TM}}(s) = \frac{q}{2\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi/2} d\varphi \int_0^\infty dr \frac{r^{2-2s} \sin \varphi \, (2 \cos^2 \varphi - 1)}{r^2 + q^2 \cos^2 \varphi} \, .
\tag{4.19}
$$

Now it is natural to make the following substitution of the variables

$$
\cos \varphi = x, \quad -\sin \varphi \, d\varphi = dx \, .
\tag{4.20}
$$

As a result one gets

$$
\zeta_{\text{ph}}^{\text{TM}}(s) = \frac{q}{2\pi^2} \int_0^1 dx \, (2x^2 - 1) \int_0^\infty \frac{r^{2-2s} dr}{r^2 + q^2 x^2} \, .
\tag{4.21}
$$

The integral over r in (4.21) exists in the region

$$
1/2 < \text{Re } s < 3/2 \, .
\tag{4.22}
$$

11

and the subsequent integration over x can be done for

$$1/2 < \text{ Re } s < 1 . \tag{4.23}$$

Thus the integral representation (4.21) can be analytically extended all over the complex s plane. This yields

$$\zeta_{\text{ph}}^{\text{TM}}(s) = \frac{q^{2-2s}}{8\pi^2} \frac{s}{(s-1)(2-s)} \Gamma(3/2-s) \, \Gamma(s-1/2) = \frac{q^{2-2s}}{8\pi} \frac{s}{(1-s)(2-s)\cos \pi s} . \tag{4.24}$$

Let us proceed to the construction of the heat kernel for the photon branch of the spectrum in the TM-sector of the model at hand. By making use of Eqs. (3.34), (4.2),(4.3), and (4.4), we obtain

$$K_{\text{ph}}^{\text{TM}}(t) = \frac{q}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty k \, dk \, e^{-k^2 t} \int_0^\infty dp \, e^{-p^2 t} \frac{p^2 - k^2}{(k^2 + p^2)^2 + q^2 p^2} . \tag{4.25}$$

Further we again introduce the polar coordinates (4.18) and then make the change of variables (4.20). Finally calculations are reduced to the substitution of the term r^{-2s} in Eq. (4.21) by $e^{-r^2 t}$:

$$K_{\text{ph}}^{\text{TM}}(t) = \frac{q}{2\pi^2} \int_0^1 dx \, (2x^2 - 1) \, I(x) , \tag{4.26}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
I(x) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{r^2 e^{-r^2 t}}{r^2 + q^2 x^2} dr = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{t}} - \frac{\pi q x}{2} e^{q^2 x^2 t} \left[1 - \text{erf}\left(qx\sqrt{t}\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{t}} - \frac{\pi q x}{2} \left[e^{q^2 x^2 t} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{2^k (qx\sqrt{t})^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!!} \right] .
\end{aligned} \tag{4.27}$$

We have used here the series representation for the function erf $(qx\sqrt{t})$ [24, 25].

Equations (4.13), (4.24), on the one hand, and the explicit form of the heat kernel, Eqs. (4.26) and (4.27), on the other hand give the same value for the coefficients $B_{n/2}$ in expansion (4.12) for all n save for $n = 0, 1$:

$$\begin{aligned}
B_1 &= -\tfrac{2}{3}\, q, \quad B_{3/2} = 0, \quad B_2 = \tfrac{4}{15}\, q^3, \\
B_{5/2} &= -\tfrac{\sqrt{\pi}}{6}\, q^4, \quad B_3 = \tfrac{8}{35}\, q^5, \quad B_{7/2} = -\tfrac{\sqrt{\pi}}{12}\, q^6 .
\end{aligned} \tag{4.28}$$

The explicit form of the integrated heat kernel in question (4.26) and (4.27) shows that two first coefficients in expansion (4.12) vanish while formulas (4.26) and (4.27) give

$$B_0 = -\frac{3}{q}, \quad B_{1/2} = \sqrt{\pi} , \tag{4.29}$$

This discrepancy implies that calculation of the first heat kernel coefficients through the respective spectral zeta function requires a special consideration in the case of unbounded configuration space.

Let us address now the spectral functions for the spectrum branch (3.35) generated by the surface plasmon. Equations (3.35), (4.1), and (4.3) give

$$\zeta_{\text{sp}}^{\text{TM}}(s) = \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\omega_{\text{sp}}^{-2s}(\mathbf{k})}{c^{-2s}} = \left(\frac{2}{q}\right)^s \int_0^\infty \frac{k \, dk}{2\pi} \left(\sqrt{q^2 + 4k^2} - q\right)^{-s} . \tag{4.30}$$

The convergence of this integral in the region $k \to 0$ requires Re $s < 1$, but when $k \to \infty$ it exists only if Re $s > 2$. Thus for the spectrum (3.35) it is impossible to construct the zeta function by making use of the analytical continuation method, since one cannot define this function in any finite domain of the complex plane s.

However it turns out that for this branch of the spectrum the heat kernel can be constructed explicitly. Indeed, by making use of Eqs. (4.2), (4.3), and (3.35) we obtain

$$
K_{\text{sp}}^{\text{TM}}(t) = \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^2} \exp\left[-\frac{\omega_{\text{sp}}^2(\mathbf{k})}{c^2} t\right] = \int_0^\infty \frac{k\,dk}{2\pi} \exp\left[-\frac{q}{2}\left(\sqrt{q^2 + 4k^2} - q\right)t\right]. \tag{4.31}
$$

The change of variables

$$
\frac{q}{2}\left(\sqrt{q^2 + 4k^2} - q\right) = x, \quad k\,dk = \left(\frac{x}{q^2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)dx
$$

reduces the integral (4.31) to the form

$$
K_{\text{sp}}^{\text{TM}}(t) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{2\pi}\left(\frac{x}{q^2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)e^{-tx} = \frac{1}{2\pi q^2 t^2} + \frac{1}{4\pi t}. \tag{4.32}
$$

The first term in Eq. (4.32) is absent in the standard expansion (4.12), and the second term in (4.32) yields $B_{1/2} = 2\sqrt{\pi}$. The rest of coefficients $B_{n/2}$ with $n \neq 1$ equal zero. Thus the surface plasmon with the spectrum (3.35) is a simple, and at the same time of a physical meaning, model that has no spectral zeta function, but the the respective (integrated) heat kernel exists though with a nonstandard asymptotic expansion. It is not surprising because we are dealing here with a singular point interaction described by the matching conditions (3.12).

V. LOCAL HEAT KERNEL

In the TE-sector of the model under consideration one can construct, in an explicit form, the local heat kernel or Green function

$$
K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t) = <\mathbf{r}|e^{-tL}|\mathbf{r}'> = \sum_n \varphi_n^*(\mathbf{r})\varphi_n(\mathbf{r}')e^{-\lambda_n t}. \tag{5.1}
$$

We are using here the same notations as in Eq. (4.2) and $\varphi_n(\mathbf{r})$ are normalized eigenfunctions in the spectral problems at hand

$$
L\varphi_n(\mathbf{r}') = \lambda_n \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}') \quad L = -\Delta. \tag{5.2}
$$

From the definition (5.1) it follows, in particular, that the local heat kernel obeys the heat conduction equations with respect the variables $(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and $(\mathbf{r}', t)$

$$
\left(\Delta_{\mathbf{r}} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t) = 0, \tag{5.3}
$$

$$
\left(\Delta_{\mathbf{r}'} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t) = 0 \tag{5.4}
$$

13

and initial condition

$$K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t) \to \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'), \quad \text{when } t \to 0^+. \tag{5.5}$$

Obviously in the case of TE-modes $K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t)$ can be represented in a factorized form

$$K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t) = K_0^{(d=2)}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) \cdot K(z, z'; t), \quad \mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{s}, z), \quad \mathbf{s} = (x, y), \tag{5.6}$$

where $K_0^{(d=2)}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t)$ is the free heat kernel in directions parallel to the plane $z = 0$:

$$K_0^{(d=2)}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) = \frac{1}{4\pi t} \exp\left[-\frac{(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}')^2}{4t}\right]. \tag{5.7}$$

For constructing the heat kernel $K(z, z'; t)$ along the infinite z-axes we shall use the technique of integral equations developed in our previous paper [28]. These equations naturally arise when representing the Green function to be found in terms of heat potentials of simple and double layers. With respect of its first argument z the heat kernel $K(z, z'; t)$ obeys the matching conditions (3.13) and when $t \to 0^+$ it satisfies the initial condition (5.5).

In what follows it is convenient to represent the heat kernel we are looking for in terms of four components depending on the range of its arguments

$$K(z, z'; t) = \begin{cases} K_{-+}(z, z'; t), & z < 0, \ z' > 0, \\ K_{++}(z, z'; t), & z, \ z' > 0, \\ K_{+-}(z, z'; t), & z > 0, \ z' < 0, \\ K_{--}(z, z'; t), & z, \ z' < 0. \end{cases} \tag{5.8}$$

We represent the heat kernel $K(z, z'; t)$ in terms of heat potentials of a simple layers [28]

$$K_{-+}(z, z'; t) = \int_0^t d\tau \, K_0(z, 0; t - \tau) \, \alpha_1(\tau; z'), \quad z < 0, \ z' > 0, \tag{5.9}$$

$$K_{++}(z, z'; t) = K_0(z, z'; t) + \int_0^t d\tau \, K_0(z, 0; t - \tau) \, \alpha_2(\tau; z'), \quad z, \ z' > 0, \tag{5.10}$$

where $\alpha_1(\tau; z')$ and $\alpha_2(\tau; z')$ are the densities of the heat potentials to be found and $K_0(z, z'; t)$ is the free heat potential (Green's function) on an infinite line

$$K_0(z, z'; t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} \exp\left[-\frac{(z - z')^2}{4t}\right]. \tag{5.11}$$

Substituting Eqs. (5.9) and (5.10) in matching conditions (3.13) we obtain

$$\int_0^t d\tau \, K_0(0, 0; t - \tau)[\alpha_1(\tau; z') - \alpha_2(\tau; z')] = K_0(0, z'; t), \quad z' > 0, \tag{5.12}$$

$$2\frac{\partial K_0}{\partial z}(z = 0, z'; t) - 4q \int_0^t d\tau \, K_0(0, 0; t - \tau)\alpha_1(\tau; z') = \alpha_1(\tau; z') + \alpha_2(\tau; z'), \, z' > 0. \tag{5.13}$$

When deriving Eq. (5.13) we have taken into account that the derivative of the single layer potential has a jump at the interface, namely, let $V(z; t)$ is the heat potential of a single layer with the density $\nu(\tau)$:

$$V(z; t) = \int_0^t d\tau \, K_0(z, 0; t - \tau) \, \nu(\tau), \tag{5.14}$$

14

then one can easily show that [28, 29]

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z}\left(z = 0^+; t\right) = -\frac{1}{2}\nu(t), \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}\left(z = 0^-; t\right) = \frac{1}{2}\nu(t). \tag{5.15}$$

On substituting in Eq. (5.12) the explicit form of the free heat kernel (5.11) we arrive at the Abel integral equation the exact solution of which is known [30, 31] or it can be derived by the Laplace transform

$$\alpha_1(t; z) - \alpha_2(t; z) = \frac{z}{t\sqrt{4\pi t}}\exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{4t}\right), \quad z > 0. \tag{5.16}$$

In what follows it is convenient to apply to Eqs. (5.13) and (5.16) the Laplace transform

$$\bar{f}(p) = \int_0^\infty e^{-pt}f(t)\,dt. \tag{5.17}$$

As a result we obtain the set of two linear algebraic equations for the functions $\bar{\alpha}_1(p; z')$ and $\bar{\alpha}_2(p; z')$:

$$\bar{\alpha}_1(p; z') - \bar{\alpha}_2(p; z') = e^{-z'\sqrt{p}}, \quad z' > 0, \tag{5.18}$$

$$\bar{\alpha}_1(p; z') + \bar{\alpha}_2(p; z') = e^{-z'\sqrt{p}} - \frac{2q}{\sqrt{p}}\bar{\alpha}_1(p; z'), \quad z' > 0. \tag{5.19}$$

From here we deduce

$$\bar{\alpha}_1(p; z') = \frac{\sqrt{p}}{q + \sqrt{p}}e^{-z'\sqrt{p}}, \quad \bar{\alpha}_2(p; z') = -\frac{q}{q + \sqrt{p}}e^{-z'\sqrt{p}}, \quad z' > 0. \tag{5.20}$$

By making use of the Laplace transform (5.17) the initial formulas (5.9) and (5.10) can be rewritten in the form

$$\bar{K}_{-+}(z, z'; p) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{p}}e^{-|z|\sqrt{p}}\bar{\alpha}_1(p; z'), \quad z < 0,\ z' > 0, \tag{5.21}$$

$$\bar{K}_{++}(z, z'; p) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{p}}e^{-|z-z'|\sqrt{p}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{p}}e^{-z\sqrt{p}}\bar{\alpha}_2(p; z'), \quad z,\ z' > 0. \tag{5.22}$$

Substitution of Eq. (5.20) into Eqs. (5.21) and (5.22) yields

$$\bar{K}_{-+}(z, z'; p) = \frac{1}{2(q + \sqrt{p})}e^{-(|z|+z')\sqrt{p}}, \quad z < 0,\ z' > 0, \tag{5.23}$$

$$\bar{K}_{++}(z, z'; p) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{p}}e^{-|z-z'|\sqrt{p}} - \frac{q}{2\sqrt{p}\,(q + \sqrt{p})}e^{-(z+z')\sqrt{p}}, \quad z,\ z' > 0. \tag{5.24}$$

The inverse Laplace transform [25, 32] applied to Eqs. (5.23) and (5.24) gives

$$K_{-+}(z, z'; t) = K_0(|z| + z', 0; t) - \frac{q}{2}e^{q(|z|+z')+q^2t}\operatorname{erfc}\left(q\sqrt{t} + \frac{|z| + z'}{2\sqrt{t}}\right),$$
$$z < 0,\ z' > 0, \tag{5.25}$$

$$K_{++}(z, z'; t) = K_0(z, z'; t) - \frac{q}{2}e^{q(z+z')+q^2t}\operatorname{erfc}\left(q\sqrt{t} + \frac{z + z'}{2\sqrt{t}}\right), \quad z,\ z' > 0. \tag{5.26}$$

15

By making use of the same technique one can derive for the components $K_{+-}(z, z'; t)$ and $K_{--}(z, z'; t)$ the formulas which are analogous to Eqs. (5.25) and (5.26). It turns out that all four components of the heat kernel $K(z, z'; t)$ (see Eq. (5.8)) can be represented in a unique way, namely:

$$K(z, z'; t) = K_0(z, z'; t) - \frac{q}{2} e^{q(|z|+|z'|)+q^2 t} \operatorname{erfc}\left(q\sqrt{t} + \frac{|z| + |z'|}{2\sqrt{t}}\right),$$
$$-\infty < z, \; z' < \infty, \quad z \neq 0, \; z' \neq 0. \tag{5.27}$$

In literature [33, 34] the fundamental solutions to the heat conduction equation or to the Schrödinger equation with the Dirac δ potential are represented, as a rule, in an integral form

$$K(z, z'; t) = K_0(z, z'; t) - q \int_0^\infty e^{-qu} K_0(|z| + |z'| + u, 0; t) \, du. \tag{5.28}$$

It is worth noting that the formulas (5.27) and (5.28) have the sense also at the points $z = 0$ and $z' = 0$.

Thus the technique of integral equations developed on the basis of heat potentials in Ref. [28] affords a regular and simple method for deriving, in an explicit form, the heat kernel in the problem under consideration. In Ref. [35] the representation (5.27) was obtained in the framework of another approach to this problem.

Proceeding from Eq. (5.28) one can easily obtain the traced heat kernel (4.9) by evaluating the integral

$$\begin{aligned}
K(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^\infty dz \, [K(z, z; t) - K_0(z, z; t)] \\
&= -q \int_{-\infty}^\infty dz \int_0^\infty du \, e^{-qu} K_0(2|z| + u, 0; t). \tag{5.29}
\end{aligned}$$

Substitution to this equation of the exact form of the free heat kernel (5.11) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
K(t) &= -\frac{q}{\sqrt{\pi t}} \int_0^\infty dz \int_0^\infty du \, e^{-qu} \exp\left[-\frac{(2z+u)^2}{4t}\right] \\
&= -\frac{q}{2} \int_0^\infty du \, e^{-qu} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{u}{2\sqrt{t}}\right). \tag{5.30}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, in order to find the integrated heat kernel $K(t)$ one has to calculate the Laplace transform of the function $\operatorname{erfc}(u/(2\sqrt{t}))$. By making use of the table of the Laplace transform [32] one finds

$$K(t) = \frac{1}{2} e^{tq^2} \operatorname{erfc}\left(q\sqrt{t}\right) - \frac{1}{2}. \tag{5.31}$$

The first term on the right-hand side of Eq. (5.31) exactly reproduces Eq. (4.9) while the constant term (-1/2) should be removed by introducing appropriate renormalization when calculating the trace over the continuous variables.

In the TM-sector of the model under study the construction of the local heat kernel proves to be much more complicated. First of all, the factorization equation (5.6) does not hold anymore. However, the technique of integral equations [28] can be applied here again, but the pertinent integral equations will be defined on the whole plane $z = 0$, i.e., they are two-dimensional integral equations. In order to go along this line, preliminary one has

to remove the dependence on the spectral parameter $(\omega(p, \mathbf{k})/c)^2$ from the first matching condition (3.12). For the heat kernel $K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}; t)$ this condition can be transformed as follows

$$
\left[\frac{\partial K}{\partial t} (\mathbf{s}, z = 0, \mathbf{r}'; t) \right] = 2q \frac{\partial K}{\partial z} (\mathbf{s}, z = 0, \mathbf{r}'; t) \,, \tag{5.32}
$$

where the notations $\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{s}, z)$, $\mathbf{s} = (x, y)$, and (3.14) are used as before.

The validity of this relation can be checked easily if one takes into account that the eigenfunctions $\varphi(\mathbf{r}) \, e^{-\lambda_n t}$ entering the definition of the heat kernel (5.1) obey Eqs. (5.3) and (5.4)

$$
-\Delta \, \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}) \, e^{-\lambda_n t} = \lambda_n \, \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}) \, e^{-\lambda_n t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \, \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}) \, e^{-\lambda_n t} \,. \tag{5.33}
$$

Here the eigenvalues λ_n are equal to $(\omega(p, \mathbf{k})/c)^2$. The matching condition (5.32) involves the space and time derivatives, i.e., so-called the skew derivative.

The Green function $K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t)$ obeys the heat conduction equations (5.3) and (5.4), hence the matching condition (5.32) can be obviously rewritten in the form

$$
[\Delta_{\mathbf{r}} K(\mathbf{s}, z = 0, \mathbf{r}'; t)] = 2q \frac{\partial K}{\partial z} (\mathbf{s}, z = 0, \mathbf{r}'; t) \,. \tag{5.34}
$$

An interesting spectral problem arises here when we confine ourself to the one-dimensional problem with $(\omega(p)/c)^2 = p^2$:

$$
-\frac{d^2}{dz^2} \varphi(z) = p^2 \, \varphi(z) \,, \quad -\infty < z < \infty, \; z \neq 0 \,, \tag{5.35}
$$
$$
[\varphi'(z = 0)] = 0 \,, \tag{5.36}
$$
$$
[\varphi''(z = 0)] = 2q \, \varphi'(z = 0) \,. \tag{5.37}
$$

At first sight, this spectral problem is completely different from the analogous one for the δ potential (see Eqs. (3.11), 3.15), and 3.13)). However the respective eigenfunctions $\varphi_p(z)$ and $\Phi_p(z)$ are connected by relation

$$
\varphi'_p(z) = \Phi_p(z) \,. \tag{5.38}
$$

Both the problems have the same positive continuous spectrum

$$
0 < p^2 < \infty \,. \tag{5.39}
$$

Furthermore the respective phase shifts, and consequently the scattering matrices, coincide (see Eq. (3.21) and Eq. (3.23) with $k = 0$). From here we infer immediately that these spectral problems have the same integrated heat kernels defined by Eq. (4.9), while the local heat kernels are obviously different.

The local heat kernel for the spectral problem (5.35) − (5.37) can be derived in the same way as it has been done above in the spectral problem with δ potential by making use of the integral equations.

As far as we know, a couple of spectral problems possessing such interesting features are found for the first time.

VI. CONCLUSION

The plasma sheet model investigated here proves to be very interesting and instructive, first of all, from the stand point of spectral analysis. The spectrum of the model contains both continuous branches and bound states (surface plasmon). It is remarkable that for the latter the spectral zeta function cannot be constructed at least by the standard analytic continuation method. At the same time the integrated heat kernel is found in an explicit form for all branches of spectrum. On the whole this heat kernel has the asymptotic expansion of a noncanonical form due to the singular point interaction.

By making use of the technique of integral equations developed by us earlier [28] the local heat kernel in the TE-sector of the model is found in an explicit form. By the way, here a new method is demonstrated for deriving the fundamental solution to the heat conduction equation(or to the Schrödinger equation) on an infinite line with the δ-like source. In principle the integral equations technique is also applicable to construction of the local heat kernel in the TM-sector of the model.

For the heat equation on an infinite line with the δ-source a nontrivial counterpart is found, namely, a spectral problem with point interaction, that possesses the same integrated heat kernel. However the local heat kernels in these spectral problems are different. The new boundary problem is not selfadjoint, the matching conditions at the singular point can be represent ed in two forms: by equation containing the spectral parameter or ii) by equation with second spatial derivative (or the first time derivative). As far as we know such a couple of spectral problems is found at the first time.

Thus the spectral analysis of the model under consideration is accomplished in full.

Without question, the spectral analysis of the same model describing the plasma layer of other forms, for example, circular infinite cylinder or sphere, is also of interest.

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